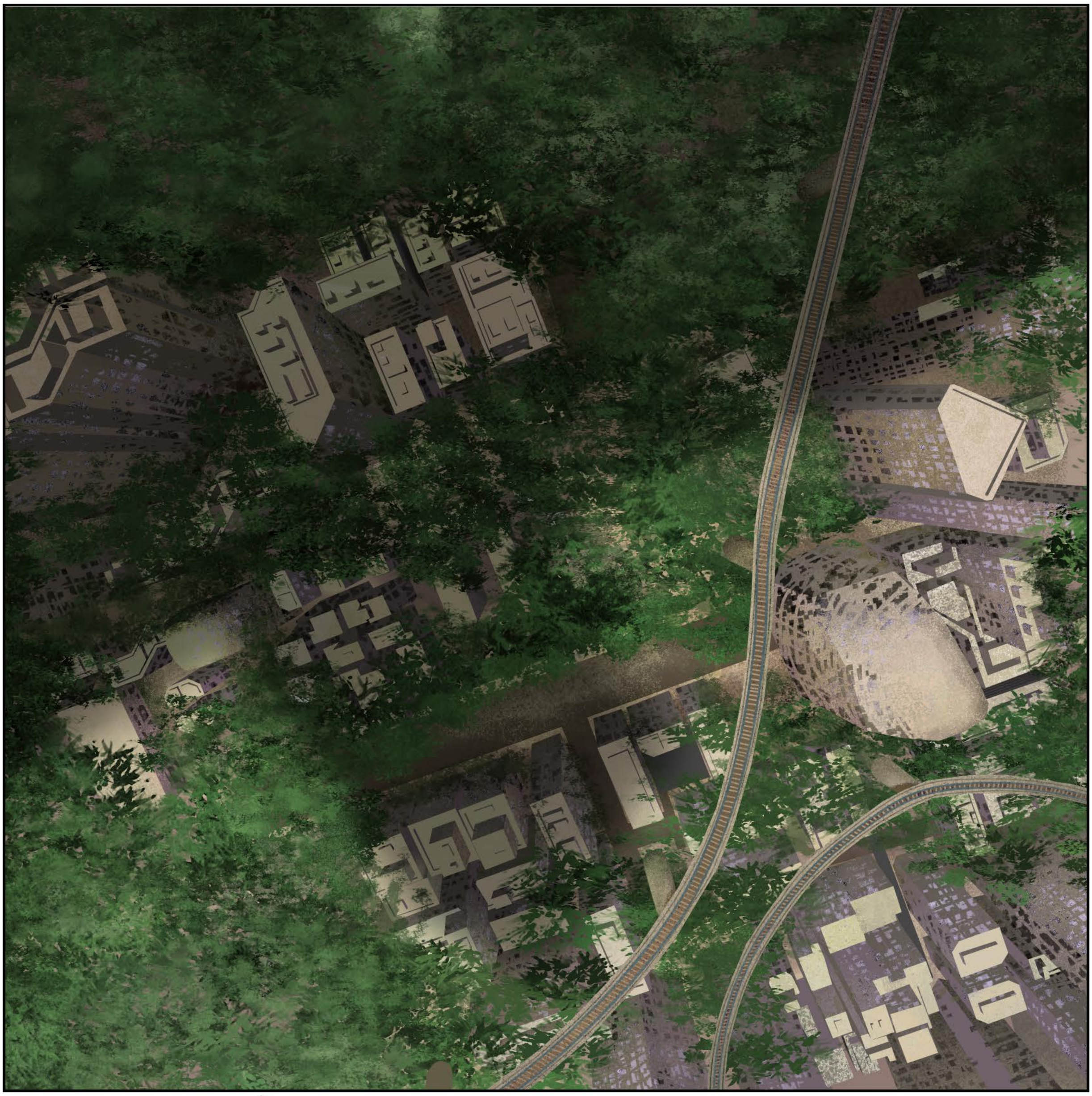
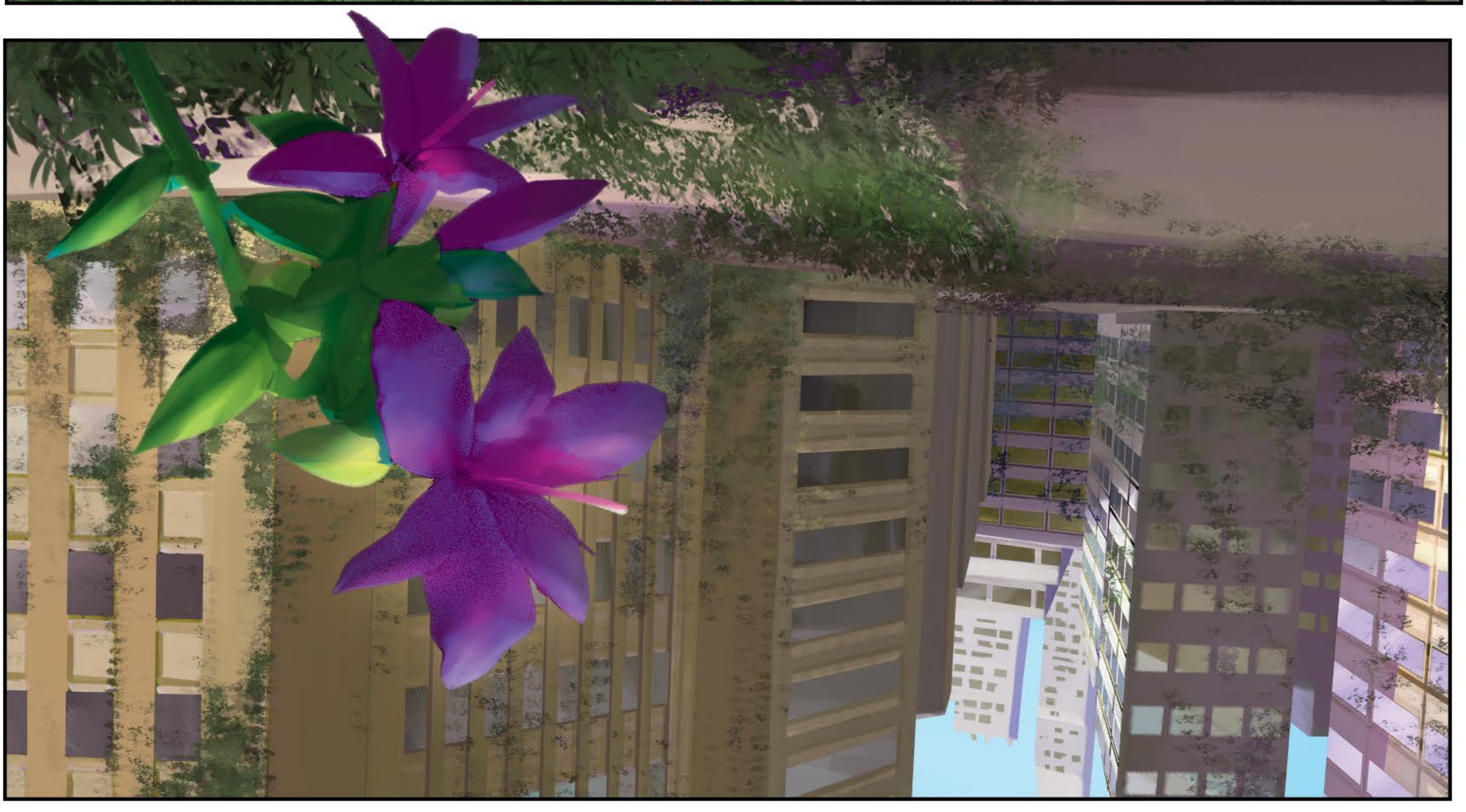
CYBORPHA

CHAPTER 2





RRRRRRRRRRRR

RRRR

-WHAT THE HECK IS-...?!

SCHUUAAA-

BUZ!
S-SOMETHING
IS HEADED RIGHT
FOR US!

?!

CRR-A-A-K-K-K

CRUSSHHHH

GOOAAHHH

CRRKRKKK

CRRKRKKK

UGN...

B-BUZ! YOU GONNA BE OKAY?

HEY, YOU HEAR THAT?! YOU BETTER FLY OFF BEFORE WE RIP YA TO PIECES YOU DUMB--

DID YOU SEE THAT THING? IT'S GONNA DESTROY THE TOWER!

THERE'S NO WAY I'M ABOUT TO LET IT RUIN THE HUMANS' HOME! WE'VE GOT TO GET UP THERE AND TRASH THAT THING!

TAP
TAP

TAP
TAP

THUMP

YOU... UH...

THUMP

VRRV?

THUMP

THUMP

IS THERE SOMEONE....

THUMP THUMP

...IN THE TOWER?

I-IT'S WORSE THAN I THOUGHT. THERE WAS SOMEONE **ON** THAT THING, BUZ!

?!

AND IT'S GOTTEN INTO THE TOWER! IT MUST BE AFTER ONE OF US!

YOU'RE SMART, MAYBE THEY'RE AFTER YOUR BRAIN OR SOMETHING!

I'M NOT GONNA LET SOME JERK TAKE MY BEST FRIEND'S BRAIN FOR THEIR EVIL SCHEMES!

AND EVEN IF THEY DO, THERE'S NO WAY I'LL LET THEM OUTSMART US TWICE!

HELLO?! IS THERE SOMEONE HERE?

YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGIVE ME FOR TAKING SUCH AN UNCONVENTIONAL ENTRANCE! I'M NOT USUALLY ONE FOR "BREAKING AND ENTERING."

I'M LOOKING FOR THE PROPRIETOR OF THIS, UH... "LOVELY" CITY. I HAVE A BUSINESS PROPOSAL THAT MIGHT JUST INTEREST YOU!

BUSINESS PROPOSAL?! THAT'S THE MOST EVIL SCHEME I'VE EVER HEARD OF!

...I THINK?

BRING IT ON! YOU'RE NEVER GONNA PROPOSE TO *US!*

AH, SO YOU ARE IN HERE! NOW LISTEN, I REALLY THINK YOU SHOULD CONSIDER--

CONSIDER THIS!!

WAIT, WHO THE HELL ARE YO-?!

!!!

BOOM

NNGGHHH-

-EH?

AHH...
OH, SORRY!
I SWEAR THAT
WOULD HAVE
HURT A BIT
MORE...

SAY UH, WHATS A
"BUSINESS PROPOSAL"
ANYWAYS?

H-HEY, PUT ME DOWN YOU FREAK! GET OUT OF HERE WHILE YOU STILL HAVE SOME TEETH LEFT!

AFTER WHAT YOU DID TO THE TOWER, YOU'RE LUCKY I DON'T WAIL ON YA!

WELL, WOULDN'T THAT BE A TREAT! I HAVEN'T RECEIVED A RIGHT HOOK LIKE THAT SINCE MY COLLEGE BOXING DAYS!

TANTALUM ALLOY MECHANIZED ARM TOO? REAL CRACKIN' STUFF, KID!

OH.... T-THANKS...!

THE NAME'S **BEN BUCKSTON**. MIGHT I SAY, IT IS A PLEASURE TO VISIT YOU HERE IN YOUR DILAPIDATED HOME!

AND YOU WOULD BE...?

UHH..?

OH! MY NAME'S ABBY!

CLAP

HUH... NOW THERE'S A GREETING I'M UNFAMILIAR WITH...

HEY BEN, WHAT... **ARE** YOU EXACTLY?

HA! MORE LIKE WHAT *AREN'T* I? YOU NAME IT, AND I'VE GOT A DEGREE IN IT, KID! HERE'S MY CARD.

CEO, LAWYER, ENGINEER, SURGEON, SALESMAN, PROFESSOR, DIRECTOR, ARCHITECT-

WOW, I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANY OF THOSE CREATURES BEFORE! I GOTTA LEARN HOW TO READ THIS STUFF!

BUCKSTON LLC.

"Any field, any career, he's got you covered!" -My customers

"Honestly, why hire anyone else?" -Ben Buckston

AH, BUT THOSE WERE THE GLORY DAYS.

THESE DAYS I WORK AS AN ENTREPRENEUR OF SORTS. TRAVELING 'ROUND THE EARTH, COLLECTING AND TRADING OLD-WORLD LUXURIES FOR PROFIT; IT'S A GOOD GIG!

YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE THE PRICES PEOPLE PAY FOR OLD **HUMAN STUFF!**

!

H-HUMANS?! YOU KNOW ABOUT THEM?!

KNOW ABOUT THEM? KID, MY FIRST BUSINESS WAS DESIGNING PRODUCTS THAT YOU HUMANS COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT!

THEY PRACTICALLY WORSHIPPED THE GROUND I WALKED ON!

PLEASE, YOU GOTTA TELL ME *EVERYTHING* ABOUT THEM!

WHAT DO THEY EAT?

HOW TALL DO THEY GET?

DO THEY LIKE TO SLEEP IN CHAIRS, LIKE ME?

VRRV?

DO THEY HAVE BUGS AS FRIENDS?

WHAT KINDA STUFF DID YOU MAKE FOR THEM?

THERE'S A TIME AND A PLACE FOR THESE THINGS, ABIGAIL.

RIGHT NOW I'M IN A BIT OF A DILEMMA. IF I DON'T RESOLVE IT, WE'LL ***BOTH*** BE IN A HEAP OF TROUBLE!

NOW THEN, YOU SEE THESE LIGHTS?

WAIT! BUT-

THEY WOULD SUGGEST TO ME THAT THERE IS A FUNCTIONING POWER GRID RUNNING ALL THROUGHOUT THIS CITY.

THE ENERGY RESERVES IN MY AIRSHIP, '*TORTERION,*' ARE MERE HOURS AWAY FROM BEING DEPLETED.

I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR A PLACE TO REFUEL FOR MONTHS, AND IN A STROKE OF LUCK I HAPPENED ACROSS YOUR CITY HERE!

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT I LOCATE THIS CITIES' POWER SUPPLY AND REFUEL IMMEDIATELY.

WITH THE HELP OF YOUR CITIES' POWER, MY BUSINESS CAN CONTINUE!

AND YOU, MY DEAR, WILL BE WEALTHILY COMPENSATED!

SO! AS THE SOLE INHABITANT OF THIS FINE CITY, IT WOULD BE FAIR TO ASSUME YOU WOULD KNOW THE WHEREABOUTS OF SUCH A POWER SOURCE, YES?

POWER SOURCE...?

HEY, PLAY ALONG, MAYBE WE CAN GET HIM TO SPILL WHAT HE KNOWS ABOUT HUMANS AFTER ALL!

UHH, A POWER... SOURCE HUH? NAH, SORRY!

I DON'T THINK WE'VE EVER EVEN HEARD OF ANYTHING LIKE *THAT* BEFORE...

BUT... THE LIGHTS!

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO SEARCH THE ENTIRE CITY! YOU TWO ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO COULD POSSIBLY KNOW--

NOPE, NOT US! SORRY BEN, MAYBE YOU SHOULD HAVE GONE CRASHING INTO SOME OTHER HUMANS' HOUSE INSTEAD.

YES P-PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE... TRULY AN IRREPER-ABLE MISTAKE ON MY PART.

WELL THEN... I SUPPOSE I'LL BE ON MY WAY.

PLOMPH

HERE, HOLD ON TO THIS FOR ME, WOULD YA?

UNH!

HUH? WHY, WON'T YOU WANT IT?

KEEP IT, KID. IT'S WORTH MORE ON YOUR HEAD THAN MINE...

SLAM

STOMP

STOMP

STOMP

BAM!

GAH!

THESE FORMAL-ITIES HAVE BEEN A COMPLETE WASTE OF TIME!

WHAT AN ABSOLUTE JOKE.

ASKING A HUMAN *CHILD* FOR HELP? YOU'D HAVE BETTER LUCK WITH A LOBOT-OMIZED CHIMP!

WHO AM I TRYING TO FOOL ANYMORE? THIS BUSINESS HAS BEEN IN A DOWNWARD SPIRAL FOR DECADES NOW.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO SHOW FOR IT ANYWAYS? A DEAD SHIP, DEAD CAREER, AND A DEAD FUTURE.

IT'S... BEEN A GOOD RUN, I SUPPOSE. EIGHT HUNDRED YEARS IN BUSINESS. THAT'S CERTAINLY WORTH SOMETHING RIGHT?

WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE GREATEST SHIP TO FLY THE SKIES THOUGH, NOW WOULD IT?

AT LEAST OUR JOURNEYS CAN COME CRASHING DOWN TOGETHER.

HERES TO YOU, TORTERION, MY LOYAL CREATION. I'M SORRY THAT THIS WAS THE BEST I COULD DO FOR YOU.

GLUG

GLUG

GLUG

SLAM

HEY, BEN!!

YOU FORGOT YOUR STICK THING! AND YOUR HAT SMELLS LIKE IT'S SICK!

-WOAH!

COUGH
HACK
DAMMIT KID, NOW I'M CONVINCED YOU'RE ***TRYING*** TO KILL ME!
THIS THING IS EVEN MORE HUGER THAN I THOUGHT!
OH, "MORE HUGER," IS IT?
THIS IS YOUR SHIP, RIGHT? THE TORTLE-THING?
WELL... YES, TAKE A GOOD LOOK WHILE YOU CAN.
SHE'S ON HER LAST LEGS. WITHOUT ANY POWER, SHE'LL COLLAPSE UNDER HER OWN WEIGHT, AND FALL AS A HEAP OF RUBBLE TO THE STREETS BELOW.
OH, RIGHT...
WELL, ABOUT THAT, I WAS THINKING MAYBE WE CAN HELP YOU LOOK FOR THAT "POWER SOURCE" AFTER ALL.
FORGET IT ABIGAIL, WE'RE OUT OF TIME. NOTHING CAN LAST FOREVER.
THERE COMES A TIME IN EVERY MAN'S LIFE WHERE HE MUST WATCH HIS LIVELYHOOD FALL OUT OF THE SKY.
SO WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO THEN, GIVE UP?
OH I'M SORRY, DO ***YOU*** HAVE SOME SORT OF BRIGHT IDEA?

SURE I DO! YOU WON'T HAVE TO LOSE YOUR SHIP AFTER ALL, THE ONLY POWER SOURCE YOU NEED IS RIGHT HERE!

YOU, HUH? KIDS ARE A HORRIBLY INEFFICIENT SOURCE OF ENERGY.

TRUST ME, I'VE PUT IN A *LOT* OF RESEACH ON THE SUBJECT.

NO, SERIOUSLY! IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH, WELL... I'M NOT *EXACTLY* SURE HOW IT WORKS, BUT-

UNLESS YOU'VE GOT A NUCLEAR PLANT RUNNING IN THAT BIG HEAD OF YOURS, THIS SHIP ISN'T MOVING.

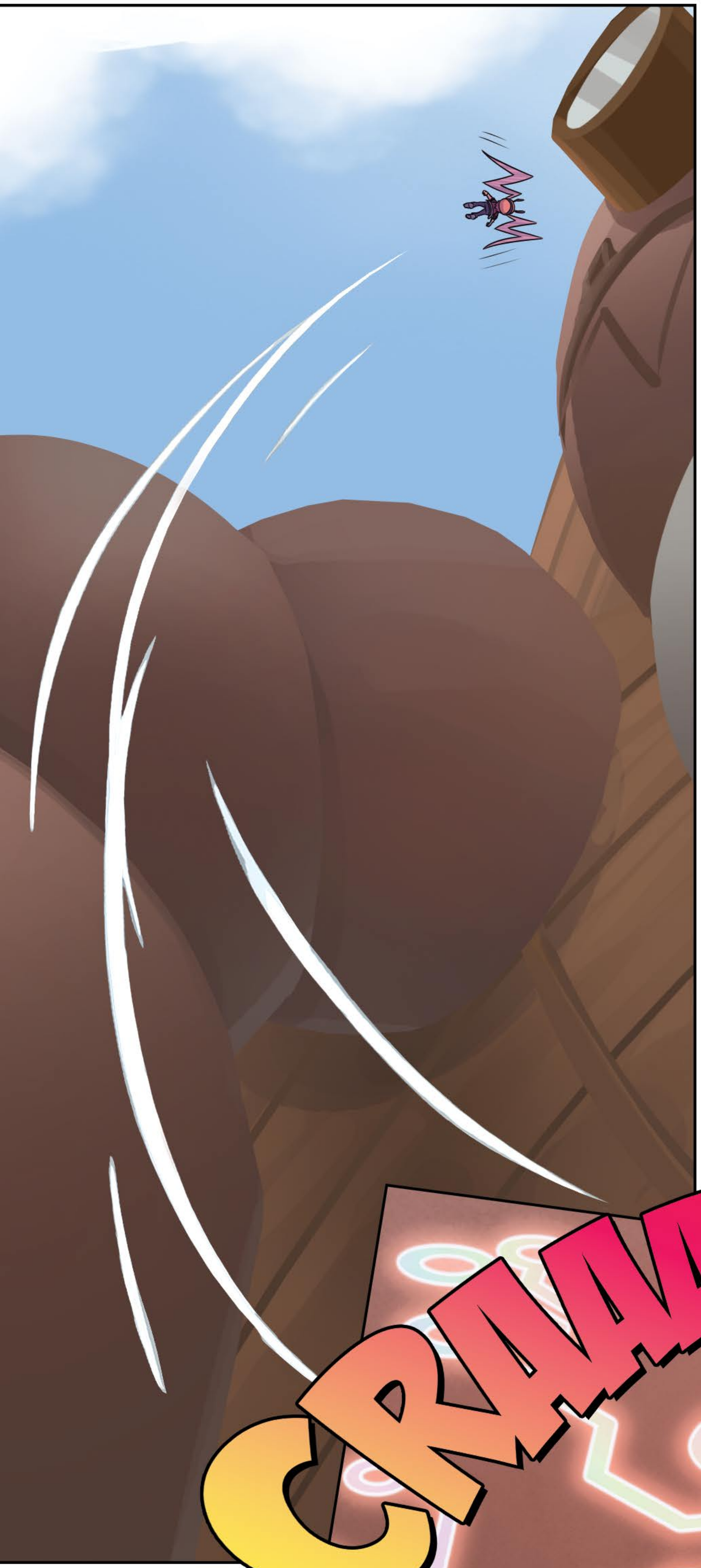
AND YOU EXPECT TO POWER THIS THING WITH... WHAT? SHEER WILLPOWER? HOW DO YOU EXPECT THIS TO WORK, EXACTLY?

WELL, SOMETHING LIKE THIS USUALLY DOES THE TRICK-

?

W-WAIT, SOMETHING LIKE WHAT USUAL-

FOOOOOM


CRUNCH!!

HEY HEY! YOU THINK I'VE GOT A WARRANTY ON THAT THING?

YOU DENT IT, THIS CITY'S GONNA PAY FOR IT!

SOMEHOW...

-EH?

SNAP

SNAP

SNASPP

WHRRR-

CLREEE-

GGUAA

SILVERPLUME

...THE HELL WAS THAT?

HEY, BEN!

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THAT, HUH?!

EHEM- WELL ABIGAIL, THIS CERTAINLY PROMPTS SOME FURTHER INVESTIGATION ON MY PART.

M-MAYBE THIS LITTLE BUSINESS PROPOSAL COULD WORK OUT AFTER ALL!

WHAT WAS IT YOU WERE GOING ON ABOUT? HUMANS, RIGHT?

I KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT 'EM. HOW ABOUT I FILL YOU IN?

UHH... SURE! WE LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT!

I'VE GOT A TON OF QUESTIONS THOUGH. YOU SURE YOU HAVE TIME FOR 'EM ALL?

HA, YOU KIDDING? OF COURSE I DON'T!

BUT I'M WILLING TO MAKE ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD FOR YOU, KIDDO!

MEET ME ON BOARD! AFTER A FEW EXPERIMENTS, I'LL BE HAPPY TO TELL YOU EVERYTHING YOU COULD POSSIBLY WANT TO KNOW!

REALLY?! THAT WOULD BE- WAIT...

EXPERIMENTS...?

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TO SEE MORE CONTENT,
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